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REMARKS

The Office Action of 08/14/2006 has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the claims have been amended as set forth above. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 18 and 19 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, which indication is appreciatively acknowledged.

Claims 15-28 were rejected on various grounds as being indefinite. Certain grounds of this rejection are respectfully traversed. If, however, the Examiner remains of the opinion that the claims suffer from indefiniteness, Applicant would be amenable to any suggestions the Examiner might have as to how the claims could be made even more clear.

As recited in the claims, Z1...Zk represent k A/D converter apparatuses that convert an input voltage VIN into multibit strings. Hence the converter apparatuses include comparators.

In claims 18 and 25, the difference between the "converter apparatus" and the "A/D converter" is believed to be clear. The converter apparatus includes an A/D converter and additional circuitry as recited in the claims.

In claims 19 and 26, the term "relative error" has been deleted. Additionally, the language concerning piecewise continuous functions has been revised to be more clear.

Claims 15-17 and 22-24 were rejected as being anticipated by Yee. The claims have been amended to more clearly distinguish over the cited reference. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In particular, claim 15 has been amended to recite in part "encoder means for applying a scale factor to at least a selected one of S1, S2, . . . , and SK to generate the digital output, wherein the digital output has a sufficient number of bits to preserve the accuracy that is contained within S1, S2, . . . , and SK." Yee is not believed to teach or suggest any such feature.

In the cover figure of Yee, output strings of the MSB and LSB flash arrays are further processed by MSB and LSB decoders. As described in column 2, lines 11-20 of Yee, however, these decoders are believed to convert a "thermometer" code into multibit value. There is no indication that the decoders of Yee apply a scale factor to the output of the flash array.

Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 15-28 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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